



DGS EMPLOYEE OF THE WEEK: LISA BANKS

Our DGS Employee of the Week says her sense of direction is terrible, so Lisa Banks finds it amusing that she works with maps for a living. Lisa is a CAD Administrator in the Energy and Engineering Division. In case you're wondering, CAD stands for computer-aided design. Project managers go to Lisa when they need drafting for space planning, land planning, and floor plans or need to verify a deed by plotting boundaries. For *Doing Great Service*, Lisa Banks is our Employee of the Week.

Lisa is called into action during the feasibility study or concept planning stage to help determine whether a project should move forward. She overlays the plat map on Google Earth to get a better idea of what's under consideration. She might be looking to determine if there is enough parking on a proposed building site or verify property boundaries as part of a land swap deal. As Lisa says, it's much better to find out on paper if there is a conflict and a new approach is needed, than after the fact when a project is already underway.



Lisa, along with Steve Cormack, is responsible for getting the drawings and specs on eMaryland Marketplace so that vendors can bid on a project. She also makes sure everyone on the distribution list has the information, which includes procurement, the agencies involved and the appropriate people at DGS.

"Lisa is a fantastic worker who I can count on to take on just about any challenge with a tremendous amount of energy and enthusiasm," said Lauren Buckler, Director of Energy & Engineering Division. "She jumps right in and is willing to learn new skills and take on new duties. Lisa is truly an asset."

Along with her CAD duties, Lisa has been busy helping coordinate the Energy Department's move to the 14th floor and sorting out resulting inventory issues.

Always drawn to activities that involve creativity, Lisa says she was working for a civil engineering firm as a receptionist when her supervisor asked if she was interested in learning how to become a CAD operator. Always up for a challenge, Lisa began taking AutoCAD classes. What she didn't learn in the classroom she taught herself and became a drafter.

In her spare time Lisa enjoys sewing costumes, brewing beer, making wine and mead, as well as making soap, candles and jams. She also dehydrates and cans produce from her garden.

After being inspired by a friend, she also taught herself how to quilt. She made one for her daughter and that led to making quilts for Project Linus which provides homemade blankets to children in need. Lisa organized members of her community to make and donate 700 quilts to children undergoing limb lengthening and other procedures in the Baltimore area. Lisa even started making lap blankets with pockets for the children who couldn't wear pants because of the halo on their leg. The blankets enabled them to get out of bed and socialize. She often noticed returning patients bringing their old blankets with them as a source of comfort.

When battling an illness herself, the ever-resourceful Lisa turned to Legos to help improve her fine motor skills. Her office is filled with Lego replicas of famous buildings and a holiday village. There's also a mini train that runs along a track. Lisa keeps the holiday spirit alive all year.

Photos of Lisa's daughter, as well as her three nephews and one niece, also decorate her office. They are all a source of great pride for her. On the weekends, Lisa enjoys retreating to her cabin in West Virginia.

DGS thanks Lisa Banks for *Doing Great Service*.